



# NEWS RELEASE

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For Immediate Release  
June 26, 2013

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## **RETIRED STATE ARSON DOG DEAD AT AGE 14; HAD SUCCESSFUL CRIME-FIGHTING CAREER**

**Atlanta** – Insurance and Safety Fire Commissioner Ralph Hudgens announced today that Georgia, a retired arson canine, passed away this morning from natural causes.

“We’ll always remember Georgia as a valuable employee and for her ability to help us pinpoint the cause of many fires,” Hudgens said.



Georgia, an arson detection Labrador retriever, began her training in 1998 at the Maine State Training Center in Alfred, Maine. She came to work for the Safety Fire Commissioner’s office in August 1999 as the fourth arson canine in the state to serve the law enforcement and fire service communities.

Between August 1999 and October 2003, Georgia and her handler, Fire Investigator Ken Palmer were involved in over 400 investigations around the state. Georgia’s specialized training allowed her to determine if accelerants were used to start a fire.

State Farm Insurance Company pays for the national program which trains dogs and handlers for fire departments and law enforcement agencies across the U.S.